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Filed : February 8, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-67 (Canceled).

68. (New) A computerized method of managing ideas, the method comprising:

(a) accumulating idea contributions for prospectively patentable inventions in a computer database;

(b) providing contractual rights to contributors of the idea contributions or to parties specified by the contributors, in exchange for property rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, or in exchange for contractual obligations by the contributors to provide the property rights, wherein the contractual rights are to a portion of income associated with the property rights; and

(c) providing at least one of the contractual rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party.

69. (New) The method according to Claim 68, additionally comprising providing at least one of the contractual rights from an owner of the at least one of the contractual rights to at least one other party than the owner.

70. (New) The method according to Claim 68, further comprising marketing at least some of the contractual rights on-line in a marketable format.

71. (New) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the marketable format is an electronically tradable certificate.

72. (New) The method according to Claim 68 or 70, further comprising transferring, selling, and/or auctioning at least some of the contractual rights on-line.

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73. (New) The method according to Claim 68 or 70, wherein a computer system facilitates use of contributor computers to make on-line contributions of the idea contributions to the computer database; and wherein the providing of contractual rights in (b) comprises providing the contractual rights to the portion of the income associated with the property rights by on-line communications between the computer system and the contributor computers.

74. (New) The method according to Claim 68 or 70, further comprising, prior to filing any patent applications for any particular inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, publishing the accumulated idea contributions that the particular inventions are derived from.

75. (New) The method according to Claim 68 or 70, wherein the idea contributions include needs and/or requirements of the inventions.

76. (New) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the marketing is on behalf of at least some assignees of the contractual rights.

77. (New) A computerized method
wherein idea contributions are accumulated for prospectively patentable inventions in a computer database, and

wherein contractual rights are provided to contributors of the idea contributions or to parties specified by the contributors, in exchange for property rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, or in exchange for contractual obligations by the contributors to provide the property rights, wherein the contractual rights are to a portion of income associated with the property rights, the method comprising:

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providing at least one of the contractual rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party.

78. (New) The method according to Claim 77, further comprising marketing at least some of the contractual rights on-line in a marketable format.

79. (New) The method according to Claim 78, wherein the marketing is on behalf of at least some assignees of the contractual rights.

80. (New) The method according to Claim 77, further comprising, prior to filing any patent applications for any particular inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, publishing the accumulated idea contributions that the particular inventions are derived from.

81. (New) A computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for managing ideas, the computer readable code comprising instructions for:

accumulating idea contributions for prospectively patentable inventions in a computer database;

providing contractual rights to contributors of the idea contributions or to parties specified by the contributors, in exchange for property rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, or in exchange for contractual obligations by the contributors to provide the property rights, wherein the contractual rights are to a portion of income associated with the property rights; and

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providing at least one of the contractual rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party.

82. (New) The medium according to Claim 81, further comprising instructions for marketing at least some of the contractual rights on-line in a marketable format.

83. (New) The medium according to Claim 82, wherein the marketing is on behalf of at least some assignees of the contractual rights.

84. (New) The medium according to Claim 82, wherein the marketable format is an electronically tradable certificate.

85. (New) The medium according to Claim 81 or 82, further comprising instructions for transferring, selling, and/or auctioning at least some of the contractual rights on-line.

86. (New) A computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for managing ideas,

wherein idea contributions are accumulated for prospectively patentable inventions in a computer database, and

wherein contractual rights are provided to contributors of the idea contributions or to parties specified by the contributors, in exchange for property rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, or in exchange for contractual obligations by the contributors to provide the property rights, wherein the contractual rights are to a portion of income associated with the property rights, the computer readable code comprising instructions for:

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providing at least one of the contractual rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party.

87. (New) The medium according to Claim 86, further comprising instructions for marketing at least some of the contractual rights on-line in a marketable format.

88. (New) The medium according to Claim 87, wherein the marketing is on behalf of at least some assignees of the contractual rights.

89. (New) The medium according to Claim 87, wherein the marketable format is an electronically tradable certificate.

90. (New) The medium according to Claim 86 or 87, further comprising instructions for transferring, selling, and/or auctioning at least some of the contractual rights on-line.

91. (New) The medium according to Claim 87, wherein the marketing is of the provided contractual rights to a portion of income associated with the property rights.